Direct Certification for School Year 2012-2014

Traditional Method

We've made a few enhancements this year to the interface. We've collected various functions together to hopefully make the process easier to follow. The files created have not changed in any way however and you should have no problems completing functions that you have been familiar with in prior years. While the site has been tested and functions well, there will be more minor changes in the near future to improve usability even further. Documentation will be revised as needed.

For public schools, the main change is that Direct Certification is now integrated with the DOE-RT report. As your enrollment changes throughout the year, and DOE-RT reports are submitted, your matching will always be including your most current student body roster. You are required to complete three Direct Certification processes during the year. The use of RT rather than PE data will make the process timelier. We encourage you to do it more frequently... consider monthly. We have features to make this very easy.

This documentation is for the Traditional Method, rather than the STN Method however. As such, rather than utilizing the most current data from RT (which over the summer is still last spring's data), the Traditional Method has you upload a special file that will be used to provide the roster of student names for the matching process. By early July most school districts have "rolled over" their student master file, deleting graduating seniors, promoting students to new buildings and grades, and perhaps pre-registering some incoming, new students. You would export the Traditional Match input file from your student information system. The file layout for the input file, as well as the output file layout is found as an appendix.

Login as always to the Application Center https://ac.doe.in.gov



If you don't have a login or can't remember your password, check with your district personnel. DOE does not maintain logins for individual accounts.

Once you login, click on "Programs" and then "School Foods and Nutrition"



If you cannot access this menu, confirm with your local administrator that your Application Center login is assigned to the **Direct Certification/Verification group**. New for this year... all tasks have been conveniently grouped under one section. No more clicking around from Data Transfer, to Lookup, to Administration on the top menu.

Clicking on School Foods and Nutrition will bring up this new tabbed interface:



Since our current topic is Direct Certification, please note the circled Direct Certification tab. This tab contains all the functions that you need to perform any Direct Certification task. You should be in this tab by default. Please note however the Direct Verification tab. The functions grouped there will be useful after October 1, when you are conducting the USDA required Verification activities.

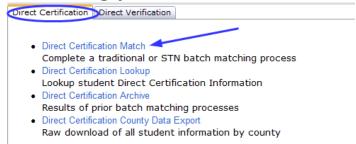
Briefly looking at the functions contained on the Direct Certification tab:

- Direct Certification Match-- Here's where you'll process a new set of matches, using either the Traditional Method, or the easier STN Method. Remember... USDA regulations require that you conduct Direct Certification at least three (3) times a year. We recommend doing it (1) as early in the summer after July 1 as possible, prior to distributing applications, (2) immediately prior to the start of Verification activities, in late September, and (3) before the beginning of the second semester in mid year. There are however powerful advantages to doing it monthly and we have features that make this extremely simple to do.
- Direct Certification Lookup—This feature allows the looking up of an individual student, by either Food Stamp/SNAP case number, Student Name and Information, or Parent Guardian Information. The search features are essentially unchanged from prior years.
- Direct Certification Archive-- The results of prior matches can be found here. By locating them here, the processing of new matches has a cleaner interface.
- Direct Certification County Data Export-- Most of you won't use this feature, at least not yet. There
 are however Point of Sale systems on the market by private companies that can do the matching
 process on their own. This new feature allows you to download the raw data used by the matching

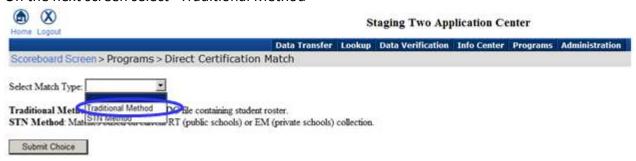
process for the county or counties your students come from. Your software vendor would need to understand the data format and probably modify their software to use this data. Have them contact John Todd.

We'll now discuss the Direct Certification Matching process by choosing the first choice on the tab, click Direct Certification Match.

Processing your Direct Certification Matches



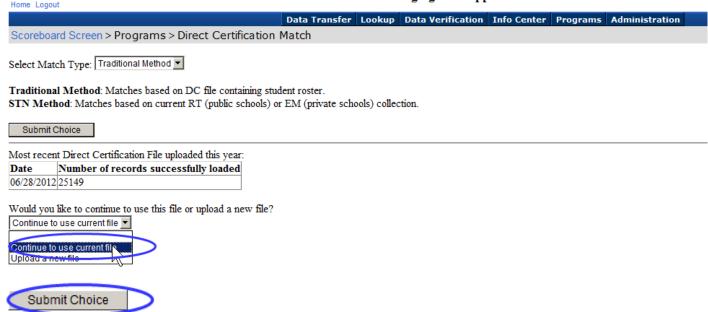
On the next screen select "Traditional Method"



Since you've chosen the Traditional Method, which involves uploading a student roster, you are given the choice to continue using a file previously uploaded, or to upload a new one. If you continue using a previously uploaded file, make sure that it's at least after July 1, or it's probably no better than using the STN method.



Staging Two Application Center



(if you wish to upload a new file skip to the end of the document to the section entitled **Uploading Traditional Match Input file at the end of this document on page 9**)

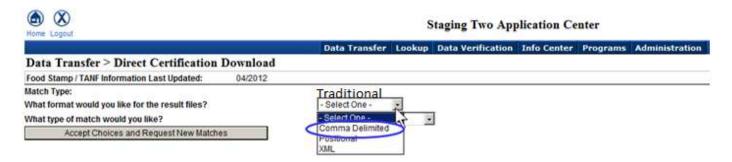
At this point, you will see a legal agreement that you must agree to to proceed further:



Once you click I agree, you'll see this screen. You've already selected Traditional as the matching method, so there are two remaining choices:



Most of you will probably select "Comma Delimited". By choosing this you will normally be able to view the results as an Excel spreadsheet, depending on how your local PC is set up.

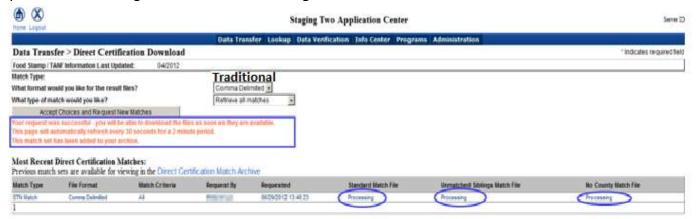


When conducting Direct Certification for the first time for any school year, you'll want to select "Retrieve All Matches". When you conduct Direct Certification the other two required times (or more frequently), you can select "Retrieve only new matches". If this is selected later in the year, the lists produced will only contain new names of eligible students not found on previous lists.



Click "Accept Choices and Request New Matches"

At this point, the screen should look like this. The computer is now working silently in the background for you. The Processing notations mean it's doing the work.



Just stare at the screen (or maybe refil your coffee cup.) In just a minute you'll see the 3 "pocessing" notations replace with something like this:



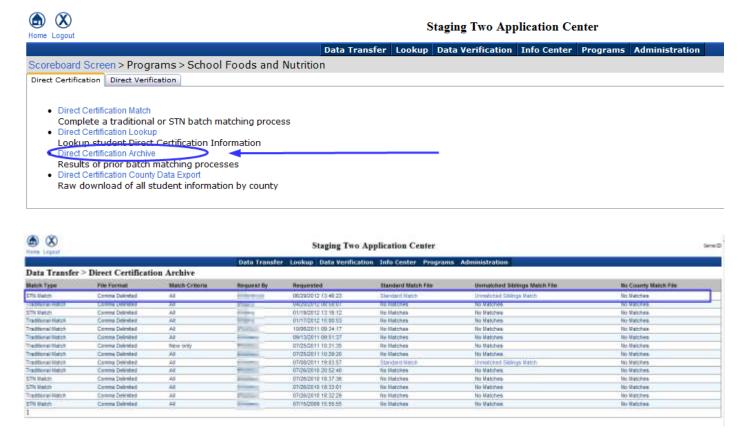
These are "hyper links" that you can click on to retrieve your results. By clicking on each of the links, you'll in most cases open up an Excel spreadsheet with student's names and other information on each row. Like last year, there are three lists:

Standard Match: Most of these can automatically be considered valid matches if the student returns to school this fall. These were matches on First Name, Last Name, County, and Date of Birth. Remember that the EM report that is being matched against, contains students from the spring and not all will return. Look in column "V". Most will say "H" for a hard/exact first name match. At the bottom of the list you may have values of "S" for a soft/sound alike match. In these cases the first names in "G" and "H" may vary slightly. Column "G" contains your value for the students first name, column "H" is what Food Stamps or TANF has for the students first name. (Example La Quisha, LaQuisha, L'Quisha.)

Unmatched Siblings Match: (that's a mouthful!) This list contains other students that are not known to attend your school, but are in the same food stamp or TANF case as the students in the first list. Look here for baby sisters or brothers that may be entering your school this year, but were not on last springs EM report.

No County Match: This list contains students that matched on first name, last name, date of birth, but NOT on county. If you have students who have moved into your district recently from another county, they might be here. They also may have moved, but are still getting Food Stamp or TANF benefits from their prior county. While it is not common, sometimes it takes a while for records to be updated. Use your common sense with names in this listing. If you're a school district in the SW part of Indiana and there's a student listed in Allen County (Fort Wayne), it's probably not your student. (Unless you KNOW that the student has recently moved from Allen County. It's just a coincidence of a student with the same name, and birthdate. We give you the Parent's name also so you have clues to make the right determination.

That's about it. Save the spreadsheets for audit purposes or future reference. Just remember, if you need to download the results of any past "Direct Certification" processing run, just go to the Archive, and all your past jobs will be there for review, including the one that you just did, which will be at the top of the list.



Best of luck in the upcoming season. Use direct certification at least three times in the year to stay in compliance and use it more frequently to maximize the benefit received. Student's economic circumstances change throughout the year.

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For questions, please contact the State Agency.	

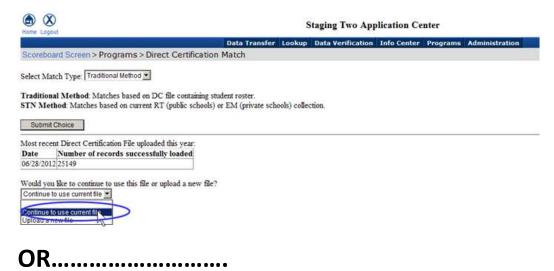
Uploading Traditional Match Input File

You can upload the Traditional Match Input file in two ways. You can either upload the file as you have in past years: **Data Transfer->File Transfer**

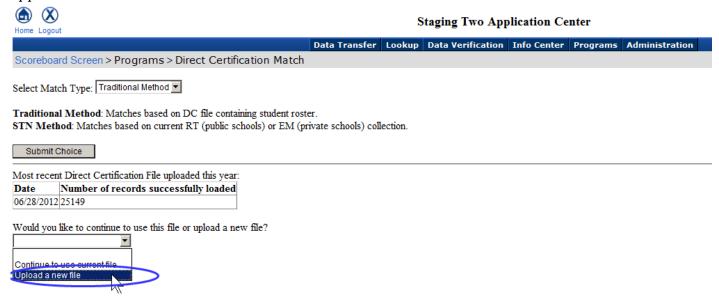


Browse for the file.

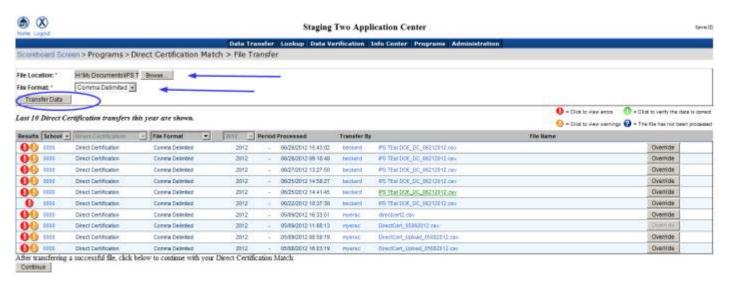
select file type, and File Format. When you start up the new Direct Certification Process from the **Programs->School Foods and Nutrition** menu, you'll see the upload as the most current file



Our new integrated environment allows you to upload the file within the Direct Certification application itself:



In a similar manner you have to browse for the file on your host computer system, select file format, then press **Transfer Data**.



Wait a moment and the new file will appear

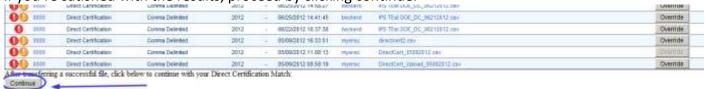


The indicates that the file has been loaded, but not yet processed. You need to wait until the file has been processed before you proceed. At this point you may have to manually refresh the screen a couple of times, thought the screen should periodically refresh.



Clicking on the will show you results of the file upload and you can decide whether to proceed or not. If you are not satisfied with the results of the load, you can reload a new document directly from the top of the form, reusing the "browse" button to select the new file and proceed through the loading and verifying the results of the load as before.

If you're satisfied with the results, proceed by clicking continue:



You are then at the Legal Agreement screen you saw in the middle of page 4 and you can continue with the producing of your lists of matches.

A current version of this document can be found at: http://doe.state.in.us/stn/pdf/2006-07-directcertification.pdf

File Specification for Direct Certification data uploads and downloads

The purpose of this data collection is to expedite the application for the eligibility of the USDA Free Lunch benefit program. Instead of the traditional eligibility requiring a parent to fill out a paper application, direct certification allows the state agency to match school district enrollment with food stamp or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the successor to AFDC) recipients and "directly certify" students for free lunches. Direct certification is an administrative time saver and may identify students who would otherwise not be identified. Additionally, direct certification records are excluded from the routine auditing process.

Audience:

Participation in Direct Certification is voluntary for public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools at this time. Several corporations are currently participating in this data collection project. This will be a mandatory collection by the 2007-2008 school year.

Although the student data collected may already exist in the Application Center, the timing of this collection and the data contained is based solely on the data provided by the user. Certification starts earlier each year, therefore the rollover of student data from elementary to junior high, etc must happen at the local level.

Instructions:

The required data should be collected, combined into a file, and submitted to the Department of Education through the Application Center.

The collection period will begin on July 5, 2006 and will be available till the end of December 2006. During this time you can submit the file to retrieve any matches by the traditional match or by Student Test Number (STN). Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year the data will be updated once a month with current data from FSSA. Also starting this school year, the files will include the STN number.

References:

For more detailed information on Direct Certification and explanation of Traditional and STN Match, please review the following document: http://doe.state.in.us/food/schoolnutrition/cnpbenefitforms.html

Direct Certification Data Layout - <u>INPUT for Traditional Match</u>

Field Order	Fieldname Description	Length	Data Field Specification and Requirements	Notes
1	County of Residence	2	State Assigned County ID Data Type: Numeric Required Field: YES	County in which the student lives.
2	Corporation/Diocese Number	4	State Assigned Corporation ID Data Type: Numeric Valid Range: 0000-9999 Required Field: YES	Corporation where the student is enrolled
3	School Number	4	State Assigned School ID Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: 'A' through 'M' (non-public) and '0' (zero) through '9' EXAMPLE: Public = 0025 or Non-Public = A235 Required Field: YES	School building where the student is enrolled
4	Student Last Name	25	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space Required Field: YES	
5	Student First Name	20	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space Required Field: YES	
6	Student Middle Name/ Middle Initial	15	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space Required Field: NO	

7	Student Name Suffix	3	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z	
			Required Field: NO	
8	Birth Date	10	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric MMDDYYYY or MM/DD/YYYY where MM = Month, DD = Day, and YYYY = Year Valid Range: 01 <= MM <=12 01 <= DD <=31 1900 <= YYYY <= 2099	
			Required Field: YES	
9	Social Security Number	9	Data Type: Numeric Required Field: NO	
10	Address – Street	30	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric	
			Required Field: YES	
11	Address - City	20	Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: YES	
12	Address - State	2	Two-Letter State Abbreviation Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: NO	
13	Address - Zip Code	9	Data Type: Numeric	Use 5- or 9-digit zip code
			Required Field: NO	
14	Corporation Assigned Student ID	15	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, 0-9, Special Characters Required Field: YES	A student ID that, the corporation has assigned, is unique to the school building and will be used instead of the STN Number.
15	Guardian Last Name	25	Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: NO	
16	Guardian First Name	20	Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: NO	
17	Guardian Middle Name/ Middle Initial	15	Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: NO	
18	Guardian Whole Name	35	Data Type: Alpha	
			Required Field: NO	
18	Guardian whole warne	35		

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19	Grade Level	2	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Allowable Codes are:	
			Allowable Codes are:	
			PK = Pre-Kindergarten Ages 3-5	
			KG = Kindergarten 01 = Grade 1	
			01 = Grade 1	
			02 = Grade 2	
			03 = Grade 3	
			04 = Grade 4	
			05 = Grade 5	
			06 = Grade 6	
			07 = Grade 7	
			08 = Grade 8	
			09 = Grade 9	
			10 = Grade 10	
			11 = Grade 11	
			12 = Grade 12	
			13 = Grade 12+/Adult	
			Described Field VEO	
			Required Field: YES	

20	Student Test Number (STN)	9	Official Student Test Number (STN) assigned to the student Required Field: YES	
21	Special Match Characters	8	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, 0-9, space Required Field: NO	

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Certification XML Data Layout – INPUT for Traditional Match 

<XIF_DCData> <Corporation Id=""> 

<School Id="">
```

<Student> <Name Last="" First="" Middle="" Suffix=""/> <Address Street="" City="" State="" Zip=""/> <Birth Date=""/> <DirectCertificationInfo GradeLevel="" County="" SSN=""/> <SchoolUse StudentID="" GuardLastName ="" GuardFirstName="" GuardMiddleName="" (City=" City=" City="

GuardWholeName="" STN=""/> </Student>

<Match Char=""></Match> </School> </Corporation> </XIF_DCData>

Direct Certification Data Layout - OUTPUT

Field Order	Fieldname Description	Length	Data Field Specification and Requirements	Notes
1	School Submitted County	2	Data Type: Numeric Valid Range: 00-99	
2	School submitted Corporation Number	4	State Assigned corporation number	
3	School Number	4	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: 'A' through 'M' (non-public) and '0' (zero) through '9'	
4	School-Submitted Corporation Student ID	15	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, 0-9, Special Characters	This field is for corporations that use a student ID for their own purposes other than the STN Number.
5	STN	9	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric 9-digit Student Test Number	
6	School-Submitted Student Last Name	25	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space	
7	School-Submitted Student First Name	20	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space	
8	ICES Student First Name	20	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), space	
9	School-Submitted Student Middle Name/ Middle Initial	15	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z	
10	ICES Student Middle Name/ Middle Initial	15	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z	
11	School-Submitted Suffix	3	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z	

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12	School-Submitted Birth Date	10	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric MM/DD/YYYY where MM = Month, DD = Day, and YYYY = Year Valid Range: 01 <= MM <=12 01 <= DD <=31 1900 <= YYYY <= 2099	
13	School-Submitted Address – Street	30	Data Type: Alpha Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, (period) ., ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), Valid Range: Space 0-9	
14	ICES Address – Street	30	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, (period)., ' (apostrophe), / (slash), - (hyphen), Valid Range: Space	
15	School-Submitted Address - City	20	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, space	
16	ICES Address - City	20	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z, space	
17	School-Submitted Address - State	2	Two-Letter State Abbreviation Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: A-Z	
18	School-Submitted Address - Zip Code	9	Data Type: Numeric Valid Range: 0-9	
19	School-Submitted Social Security Number	9	Data Type: Numeric Valid Range: 0-9	
20	ICES Case Number	16	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, 0-9, space	
21	ICES Assistance Type	1		
22	Hard/Soft Match	1	Data Type: Alpha Valid Range: H, S	Indicates whether the match was exact
23	Certification Date	10	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric MM/DD/YYYY where MM = Month, DD = Day, and YYYY = Year Valid Range: 01 <= MM <=12 01 <= DD <=31 1900 <= YYYY <= 2099	

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24	School-Submitted Grade Level	2	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Allowable Codes are:	
			PK=Pre-Kindergarten KG=Kindergarten	
			01=Grade 1	
			02=Grade 2	
			03=Grade 3 04=Grade 4	
			05=Grade 5	
			06=Grade 6	
			07=Grade 7 08=Grade 8	
			09=Grade 9	
		[10=Grade 10 11=Grade 11	
			12=Grade 12	
			13=Grade 12+/Adult	
		[
1				
1				
25	Guardian Last Name	25	Data Type: Alpha	
	Guardian First Name			
26	Guardian First Name	20	Data Type: Alpha	

27	Guardian Middle Name/ Middle Initial	15	Data Type: Alpha
28	Guardian Whole Name	35	Data Type: Alpha
29	Match Month	2	FSSA Data used in matching names was current as of this Month.
30	Special Match Characters	8	Data Type: Alpha-Numeric Valid Range: A-Z, 0-9, space *This optional field allows
			you to classify records into user specific categories

Direct Certification XML OUTPUT Data Layout

```
<XIF_DCData> <Corporation Id=""> <School Id=""> <Student STN="" > <Name Last="" First="" IcesFirst="" Middle="" IcesMiddle="" Suffix""> <Address Street="" IcesStreet="" City="" IcesCity="" State="" Zip=""> <Birth Date=""> <DirectCertificationInfo GradeLevel="" County="" SSN=""> <SchoolUse StudentID="" GuardLastName ="" GuardFirstName="" GuardMiddleName="" GuardWholeName="" STN=""> <IcesMatchInfo CaseNumber="" AssistanceType="" MatchType="" CertDate="" Matchmonth="" MatchChar="" > </Student> </School> </Corporation> </XIF_DCData>
```

Change History

Version	Change History
08.14.06	Field 30 changed to field 21 on the input file.
06.02.06	Field 30, Special Match Characters added to the input and output file.
07.06.05	Corrected XML tags Corporation ID and School ID on the input file
06.22.05	Field 29, STN removed from the OUTPUT file. Field 5 was also STN number.
05.13.05	Match Month, field 30, added to the output file.
05.03.05	Data layout changed to include STN Number, Audience added, Instructions added
05.21.03	Original layout